

Middlesex Health Care Center

February 5, 2015

Written testimony of Amy Pellerin, LNHA Administrator at Middlesex Health Care Center, Middletown CT.

Concerning:

*Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

*Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>

*Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Amy Pellerin. I am the Administrator of Middlesex Health Care Center in Middletown, Connecticut. Middlesex Health Care Center is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community Middletown, Middlefield, Durham and Cromwell. We are a 150 bed facility and employ over 270 people. At this time we are the only 5 Star CMS buildings in the Middletown area, something we take great pride in and something that does not come without hard work and a very dedicated staff who work tirelessly each day to provide quality care and excellent customer service.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco, And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills recognize that just can't work over time and provide for increasing rates, by an annual cost of living adjustment or through a formula that increases rates based on the nursing facilities costs.

100 Randolph Road - Middletown, CT 06457

860-344-0353 - fax: 860-346-1932

athenahealthcare.com/middlesex

Managed by Athena Health Care Systems

The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Low wages and an inability to hire quality staff.
- Inability to give increases to retain the quality staff we do have.
- Inability to make physical plant improvements.
- Increasing sub-acute needs of patients that are being discharged from the hospitals far too early and limited resources to meet their needs.
- Costs have dramatically increased while resources have diminished.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Pellerin', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Amy D. Pellerin, LNHA

Administrator